

with the skin from two to five minutes. After the preliminary large doses, the following mixture should be used: *R.* chloroformi gtt. 20-50; gum. tragacanth ʒj; syr. simplic. ʒj; aquæ ʒijj. *Misce.* Dose, a teaspoonful frequently. He gives the following formula for the chloroform enema: *R.* Chloroformi gtt. 20-50; gum. tragacanth ʒij; ov. vitelli, j; aquæ ʒiv. *Misce.*

The patient should be desired to endeavour to retain this enema as long as possible.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1855, from *L'Union Médicale*, Jan. 1855.

36. *Iodide of Potassium for Cure of Lead Poisoning.*—It has been asserted by MM. Natalis Guillot and Melsens that the administration of the iodide of potassium is the best means for ridding the system of lead and mercury, inasmuch as the insoluble compounds which the salts of these metals form with the organic substances are all soluble in the iodide of potassium, which is a salt very easily and rapidly eliminated from the animal economy. Mialhe denied these assertions, which were founded on experiments made on dogs. M. MALHERBE, chief physician to the Hôtel-Dieu, at Nantes, has recently tried the drug in some cases of lead poisoning, with great benefit. He never gave more than 15 grains daily, but often much less. His experience of the remedy has not been sufficiently extensive to enable him to arrive at definite conclusions; but he thinks, from the trials he has made of it, that the following deductions are warrantable:—

1. In lead poisoning, elimination of the metal takes place naturally by means of the urinary organs, which is probably due to the influence of the alkaline chlorides contained in the animal fluids, as has been thought by M. Mialhe. But this eliminative process is not sufficiently rapid to procure a spontaneous cure of lead poisoning.

2. This elimination of lead by the urine is rendered much more active by the use of the iodide of potassium; the excretion of the phosphates by this channel is also considerably increased; and these salts yield an insoluble residue which contains the greater part of the eliminated lead.

3. Although lead is not naturally eliminated by the saliva, the iodide of potassium seems capable of occasioning its discharge through this medium.

Malherbe gives the following rules for the rational treatment of lead poisoning, in which he has arranged the remedies according to their relative importance, and not in the order in which they should be administered, which must necessarily vary in different cases. The indications are:—

1. To eliminate the lead contained in the economy by means of iodide of potassium, which should be administered methodically, and should be given as long as the urine and the saliva give the reactions of the metal.

2. To cleanse the cutaneous surface by means of sulphureous and soap and water-baths; and to purify the mucous surfaces by the internal use of the preparations of sulphur and by purgatives. The latter medicines, by inducing abundant bilious evacuations, doubtless eliminate a part of the lead contained in the liver; but they cannot reach those portions of the metal which are combined with the tissues of other organs.

3. To calm hyperæsthesia and nervous symptoms in general (as epilepsy, delirium, convulsions, coma) by narcotics, and especially by belladonna, which, in addition to its sedative properties, is possessed of a cathartic action which often renders the employment of purgatives unnecessary.

4. To combat paralysis by means of strychnia and electricity.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, April, 1855, from *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, 21st Dec. 1854.

37. *Employment of Wine as an Enema.*—M. ARAN observes that, in many cases of dyspepsia, chlorosis, phthisis, and convalescence from severe disease, the use of wine is strongly indicated, whilst the heat and irritation of the digestive organs it induces absolutely prevent its employment. Having found vinous enemata of great utility in obstinate diarrhoea, he tried them in various other cases, and for the last three or four years he has administered them whenever slow convalescence has been united with irritability of the digestive organs. He has also obtained great and unexpected advantages in phthisis,

having at first administered the wine on account of the accompanying diarrhoea. When the disease is advanced, little, or only temporary, benefit results; but, when given at an earlier period, and associated with cod-liver oil or other means, the wine does exert a salutary influence that merits attention. In gastralgia, while the general debility seems to indicate the use of tonics, yet wine cannot be given, even in small quantities, without exciting a sensation of burning; but in several examples of this the vinous lavements have not only restored strength, but have so diminished the gastric irritability as to allow of a little wine being taken with the food. Another form of dyspepsia alike susceptible of benefit is vomiting, with the rejection of alimentary matters—the strength and *embonpoint* rapidly returning under the use of the enemata.

But the affection in which M. Aran has been most surprised at the amount of success obtained is chlorosis. Influenced by the so prevalent opinion that iron is the specific remedy, he at first gave it in conjunction; but he afterwards omitted it, only prescribing, besides the wine, general frictions with an ammoniacal liniment, and a powder consisting of bismuth, rhubarb, and valerian. In a few days, the patients seemed to have recovered their normal health just as if iron had been given, and that even in severe cases. In their relation to iron, cases of chlorosis may, indeed, be divided into three categories. In the first and most numerous, iron properly administered furnishes a durable cure. In others, a rapid amelioration ensues, which is followed by a relapse on its discontinuance. Temporary amendment attends its resumption, and so on for years, iron thus becoming a constant necessity. Thirdly, there are not a few cases in which iron fails altogether, or in which the amelioration never rises to the dignity of a cure. M. Aran has also advantageously employed the injections in various other conditions characterized by debility, and especially in paludal, syphilitic, or cancerous cachexy, in some cases of anasarca, and in different circumstances in which alcoholic stimuli are indicated.

The lavements are found to act advantageously, in proportion as the individuals have been previously unaccustomed to alcoholic drinks. Thus, they are, in general, more useful in women than in men, more still in young girls, and more so in the inhabitants of the country than those of Paris. Until the patient becomes accustomed to them, they induce a kind of drunkenness, but very different from that following the swallowing of wine; and if the enema be given in the evening, so that the patient may afterwards remain quietly recumbent, refreshing sleep ensues. It is to be remarked, that effects are produced by a dose of wine that, if swallowed, would induce little effect. It is sufficient, in slight cases, occurring in impressionable persons, to employ 150 grammes; but, in obstinate cases, 250 to 350 grammes may be required. In the chlorotic, it seems much to hasten the cure to divide the dose into two parts, administering one morning and evening. In general, from 150 to 250 grammes suffice, and it is better, if the wine is rich, to commence its use by diluting it with water. Immediately before giving the enema, the rectum should be emptied by a lukewarm injection, and the wine should be employed tepid, so as not to induce contraction of the rectum. At first, the patient should lie down, and endeavour to retain the fluid; but those who are accustomed to the treatment retain it with little trouble in any position.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, March 17, from *Bull. de Thérap.*, 1855, t. xlviii.

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND OPERATIVE SURGERY.

38. *Discussion on the Curability of Cancer, and its Diagnosis by means of the Microscope.*—[We continue, from p. 520 of our preceding number, the interesting discussion, at the Imperial Academy of Medicine, relative to this subject.]

Nov. 7, 1854. M. VELPEAU said: At the commencement, I advanced two propositions: 1st. That cancer was sometimes curable; and, 2d, that certain cases